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SAC - Cuba

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Copy 1 of 1
1 February 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Maxwell Taylor
SUBJECT : Value of TALENT Coverage of Cuba

1. The first TALENT coverage of Cuba was obtained on 27 October 1960. Since that time coverage has been obtained on 27 separate occasions - the latest on 19 January 1962. Approximately 1,359,317 square nautical miles of duplicate coverage resulted from this effort. This includes basic coverage of the entire island and repeat coverage of many parts of priority interest. The following summary depicts the coverage by month:

October 1960	1
November 1960	1
December 1960	1
March 1961	2
April 1961	15
May 1961	1
June 1961	2
July 1961	1
September 1961	1
October 1961	1
December 1961	1
January 1962	1

2. Since the break in diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba in January 1961 our two sources of current factual

TALENT is the only source that has given us a current picture of activities over a wide portion of the island of Cuba at one point in time. TALENT coverage has been particularly useful in enabling

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us to keep abreast of the current status of the build-up of conventional ground force weapons and jet aircraft. For many months we were able to deny the existence of MIG aircraft as well as missile sites in Cuba in spite of a large number of reports from low level sources to the effect that these existed in relatively large numbers.

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[redacted] first three MIG aircraft were seen on TALENT photography on 15 June 1961. Subsequent coverage has enabled us to follow the build-up of numbers of operational aircraft. The largest number observed so far was 28 MIG 15/17 and 2 MIG 19 observed on 6 December 1961. This information plus information from Special Intelligence has caused us to estimate that the total number of MIGs in Cuba is at least 40. No missile sites have ever been seen.

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3. TALENT material has also enabled us to maintain a current view of military activity around the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay during periods of particular tension. The most recent coverage for this purpose was on 19 January 1962 in anticipation of possible disturbances during the OAS meeting in Punta del Este.

4. TALENT material has been of great value in operations. A series of beach and terrain studies were made during the planning phase before the invasion of April 1961. Additional coverage was obtained to provide tactical intelligence during the few days immediately before as well as during and after the invasion. TALENT material has also provided information for operations involving the

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[redacted]

5. TALENT coverage of the island at intervals over a period of time has provided us with information that can be used in support of basic research concerning the economy of Cuba. This is likely to become more and more important as time passes because our major flow of information concerning the economy was cut off at the time of the break of diplomatic relations.

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O/DD/C: [redacted] 1B3

15/12/62

Distribution:
by 1, 2 & 3 - Gen. Taylor
4 - DDCI,
5 - [redacted]

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

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